

Appropriations Committee Hearing
February 21, 2017

Dear Appropriations Committee,

My name is Bria McCullough. I am a resident of Bridgeport and I am a member of FaithActs for Education. We are people of faith building power to get children the education they deserve.

I moved to this city 7 years ago with my parents and brother after just graduating from high school. When my family moved. I went to Queens to attend St. John's University. My younger brother was still in grade school. It was then when I got to witness first hand the difference between suburban/urban education. When I would call home to talk to my parents they would often share the struggles they were facing with my brother receiving a quality education. It was these countless conversations that would eventually lead me to change my major from child psychology to secondary education.

I am now a 2nd year educator in Bridgeport public schools. Although the past few years have been filled with so much joy and so many triumphs, I've also experienced the greatest heartbreak I have ever felt. I go to work day in and day out to see how students aren't getting the quality education they deserve. As an educator, I have a responsibility to provide students with an environment that will be the most conducive for their learning.

With the recent cut in paraprofessionals, special education programs and many other vital people and programs, it is becoming increasingly hard to provide students the education and resources they deserve. If I were a teacher in the suburban neighborhood that my brother and I grew up in before we moved to Bridgeport, having these resources for my students would be the least of my worries.

I ask that you fund our children equitably. I need my classroom full of the resources our children need. Fund our kids equally and equitably. We need you!

Thank you,
Bria McCullough
Concerned Educator and Resident